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SUBJECT: SHOOTDOWN: Brazilian Air Defense Procedures

11. (SBU) SUMMARY AND COMMENT. Paragraph 2 contains an Embassy translation of the text of the procedures under which Brazil's Air Defense Authorities can order a shutdown under Brazilian law. These procedures were provided by the Brazilian Air Force and should be treated as an internal Brazilian Government document. The procedures detail a number of safeguards to prevent accidental shutdowns from occurring, including a requirement for visual observation of suspect aircraft and a rigorous chain of command for airspace control. While not specifically mentioned in these procedures, Brazilian Air Force sources have confirmed that any decision to fire on a suspect aircraft would require personal approval from the Chief of the Air Force (to be reported separately). Air Defense Authorities have also clarified that these procedures keep their chain of command completely isolated from the operations of controllers of civil aviation so there is no possibility for anyone outside the chain to become involved in a potential shutdown. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

12. (U) Text of Brazilian Procedures

The Shoot Down is the last step of a sequence which is very carefully evaluated and conducted by Air Defense Authorities, throughout all levels of the decision making process, who are trained and enabled, in accordance with Brazilian Aerospace Defense System's (SISDABRA) regulations.

Once in possession of intelligence data, provided by various institutions, including the Federal Police, and after being identified by radar, the aircraft designated as "suspicious", will be submitted to the following air space patrol measures, accomplished by an intercepting aircraft:

Investigatory Measures: Consist of determining or confirming the identity of an aircraft or, even, observing its behavior. They are based on the intercepting aircraft's visible and demonstrative approach toward the intercepted aircraft, with the purpose of interrogating it via radio communication or visual signals, according to international air traffic rules, as referenced in Appendix 2 of Annex II, of the Convention on International Civil Aviation;

Intervention Measures: Following Investigatory Measures, the intercepted aircraft is ordered to change its route, with the purpose of forcing it to land at a pre-determined airfield, in order to be submitted to Ground Control Measures, accomplished by Air Force Authorities, Federal Police and Customs.

Persuasion Measures: Following Intervention Measures, warning shots with tracer ammunition is discharged next to the intercepting aircraft, in a way that the intercepted aircraft's crew can observe them, with the intent of persuading them to obey the transmitted orders.

In accordance with SISDABRA's regulations, the employment of the aforementioned air space patrol measures is assigned to the following Aerospace Defense Authorities:

- ¶1. The President of the Republic
- ¶2. The Minister of Defense
- ¶3. The Air Force Commander [level of approval required for shoot down]
- ¶4. The Commander of Air Operations General-Command
- ¶5. The Commander of Brazilian Aerospace Defense Command
- ¶6. The Air Defense Supervisor; and
- ¶7. The Air Defense Pilot and Flight Controller

After this entire process, aircraft which do not respond to Authorities' inquiries will be considered "hostile", becoming subject to shoot down, which will be determined by the designated competent authority. As an additional security measure, all communications between the aerospace defense authorities involved will be recorded.

The regulation of the Shoot Down Law, signed by the President of the Republic, via Decree number 5.144, dated 16 July, 2004, generated instruments of dissuasion needed patrol Brazilian Airspace. The matter has been thoroughly discussed within the scope of the Air Force Command and Brazilian government.

End text

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